

1. (twice amended) A boot for a ski or in-line roller skate wherein the boot [is in substantial part flexible, having] has a flexible upper (3), and [in substantial part] a rigid part comprising a rigid portion of [in that] the sole [of which has a rigid part in] extending from the rear region of the boot, over about one half of the length of the sole to a central region of the boot, and a binding interfacing portion which interfaces with a binding of a ski or in-line roller skate;

wherein the rest of the sole [of which] is flexible so as to allow the foot to flex during walking, and

wherein the rigid part of the sole [comprises an] rigidly supports the entire binding interfacing portion and there is no binding interfacing portion at the front region of the boot such that there is no need of a binding interfacing portion at the front region of the boot [interface between the boot and a binding of a ski or in-line roller skate].

2. (twice amended) The ski boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein the [rigid part (1) of the sole interfaces between the boot and a] ski binding [having] is an automatic release binding.

3. (twice amended) The boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein a second rigid portion of the rigid part [part (4 ;5)] encloses the heel and is rigidly secured to the rigid portion [part (1) of the sole].

4. (amended) The boot as claimed in claim 3, wherein the rigid portion [part (1) of the sole] and the second rigid portion [part (5) of the upper] are integral.

5. (twice amended) The boot as claimed in claim 3, wherein the second rigid portion [part (5) of the upper] has at least one cutout [(7, 14)], which defines the binding interfacing portion [engages a ski or skate binding].

8. (twice amended) The boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rigid part [(1) of the sole] has a [profiled part (6, 7; 6, 8; 11) of standard length which] binding